

FORUM

kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240



COL. KATHIE CLOSE
377th Air Base Wing commander

Farewell TEAM KIRTLAND

BY COL. KATHIE CLOSE
377th Air Base Wing commander

It has been a great tour here at Kirtland AFB and I am proud of the accomplishments of the men and women of Kirtland AFB.

The dedication and professionalism of everyone—military, civilians and contractors—is amazing given the challenges that we have had to overcome together.

A heartfelt thanks to the members of the 377th Air Base Wing, the associate commanders, our federal government partners and the contractors for their unquestionable support to ensure the three critical areas of readiness, mission and people were always at the forefront of our decisions.

I wish you the best as you continue to ensure the success of the people and missions of Kirtland AFB.

Contacting Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

Give base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

Callers’ names won’t be printed.

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum
2000 Wyoming SE
Kirtland AFB NM 87117

Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691
CE 24-hour Help Desk, 846-8222
Commissary, 846-9586
Computer help, 846-5926
Energy wasting, 846-4633
Exchange Service, 266-9887
Family Services, 846-0741
Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639
Law Enforcement Desk, 846-7926
Legal Services, 846-4217
Medical Clinic, 846-3406
Services Squadron, 853-7679

Misbehaving children are parent’s responsibility

The other day I went to the BX for the first time in a while and I was rather upset on what I saw.

The customers in the store were busy talking and shopping like they usually are but paying no attention to their children.

I saw kids running through the store with no supervision, they were throwing merchandise on the floor and their parents stood there and did nothing.

As a customer of the BX I am tired of having to pay higher prices for merchandise because they have to make up their loses from the damage these children inflict.

Is it too much to ask that people train their children to respect other people’s property?

Is this the new military we are seeing emerge? My children were taught that on the base they represented me, their father and the position I upheld.

Can’t people be held responsible for the damage their children do? If this were the case, I’m sure you would be seeing people paying a lot

more attention to what their children were doing.

Thank you for your concern and for bringing this behavior to the attention of our readers.

The behavior of children while in the BX or anywhere on Kirtland AFB is the responsibility of the parent.

While the BX management is not aware that any significant damages have resulted from incidents involving children’s behavior, we appreciate your concern and encourage all parents to monitor their children’s behavior at base facilities.

Indoor, outdoor pools closed on different days for maintenance

Why are the pool services going down in quality? Now the pool is closed on Sundays. This is during the summer season. I would appreciate knowing why.

During the summer months when the outdoor pool is open, we close the indoor pool on Sundays and the outdoor pool on Mondays to provide the required maintenance and to remove algae.

The high number of people using the pools and the long daylight hours during the summer promote the growth of black algae that can cause illness to patrons unless the pools are properly maintained.

By closing the pools once a week for maintenance and cleaning, we can provide the community a safer and healthier place to swim.

Cleaners not meeting customer’s standards

Since my promotion earlier this year I have been to alterations and the dry cleaners at the Mini Mall numerous times.

Almost every time I have sent a uniform item back because it wasn’t up to military standards. In fact, I sent one particular shirt back three times before I was satisfied.

Needless to say, I have spent a lot of time and money during my many attempts to get my uniforms altered or cleaned properly.

This last incident is what urged me to use your hotline. It was a shirt I picked up on a Friday just prior to leaving for temporary duty, so I had no choice but to take it even though the new stripes on the sleeves were

not pressed.

Once at my temporary duty location, I got the shirt out to iron the stripes myself and found a brown scorch mark on the collar. I had to take it to the cleaners there once again spending additional time and money to get the job done right.

I don’t want any coupons or discounts for my next cleaning or alteration. I just want the job done correctly, the first time.

I understand you have already made several attempts with the Kirtland AFB Laundry and Dry Cleaning Shop and the AAFES management to provide you with quality service. You are right and deserve to have the cleaning done correctly the first time, which is our goal as well. I apologize that this did not occur.

Management visited the laundry and dry cleaning plant to check the quality and has instituted additional checks at the pick up to rectify the situation. In addition, it is recommended that uniforms with new stripes be dry cleaned at least three times before being laundered and that no direct heat be put on them because it can cause bleeding.

Traffic patterns change as road repair, housing construction closes areas


During building construction and road projects on Kirtland AFB, some roadways will be closed and routes changed for as long as four years.

Vehicle traffic and pedestrian access is rerouted during demolition of housing units in the Loop and East Capehart areas and construction in the Village I area for new housing. The work began June 30. The housing project that is expected to conclude in four years closes 7th Street for several years and reroutes traffic in the 22nd Loop and East Sandia Circle housing units, Mountain View Club and Visiting Officers Quarters.

Closing 20th Street for 2.5 years for construction

of the new MicroFab addition at Sandia National Laboratories. For that project, a new paved loop bypass road near Building 895 reroutes 20th Street traffic off and back to 20th Street just before the road meets Hardin Avenue. At Building 857, the Integrated Material Research Laboratory, the east entrance to parking lots is closed. Enter from the south off Hardin Avenue. A new four-way stop and turn lane has been added.

Pedestrians and drivers in vehicles not associated with the construction work are asked to avoid the construction areas and to observe direction of all signage and barricading for the project.



NUCLEUS

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COURT MARTIAL

Drugs, forgery end in 3 years confinement, bad conduct discharge

BY 1ST LT JEREMIE LIPTON

377th Staff Judge Advocate Office

An airman basic was convicted of several crimes in a general court-martial held here June 18.

Airman Basic Joseph J. Loehr, 377th Medical Support Squadron, was charged with willful disobedience of a superior commissioned officer, wrongful use of cocaine, larceny and forgery.

Loehr was originally investigated concerning his drug use after he tested positive for cocaine during a unit sweep in September 2002. While under investigation on that charge, the government uncovered evidence of Loehr's involvement in a larceny and forgery scheme involving another Kirtland AFB Airman.

After Loehr learned that a non-base affiliated female friend whom he'd sponsored onto Kirtland AFB had stolen a book of checks from his dormitory suitemate, Loehr aided his friend in covering up her crime.

Loehr then forged his suitemate's

signature on 18 checks and cashed or deposited those checks in various bank accounts in the Albuquerque area. Over the course of a month, Loehr stole over \$7,800 with the forged checks.

During the period Loehr stole this money, he purchased a TV for his car, expensive clothes, a gold watch, and made a \$200 down payment on a set of rims and tires for his car.

Loehr was eventually caught when his suitemate noticed unusual activity on his bank account.

After Loehr was ordered to remain restricted to Kirtland AFB by his squadron commander, he willfully disobeyed his commander by leaving Kirtland AFB on several occasions.

Loehr pled guilty to all charges and elected to be tried by a military judge alone.

He was found guilty of all charges.

During his guilty plea, Loehr admitted to wrongfully using cocaine. He also admitted to helping his female friend avoid arrest and prosecution.

Loehr also admitted to violating the trust of his suitemate by forging his signature and stealing his money.

During its sentencing argument, the defense portrayed Loehr as a young, immature Airman unable to make the right choices partly because of his desire to please the woman he was dating. The defense asked the military judge to forego a dishonorable discharge and lengthy confinement, arguing instead that Loehr should be sent home to his family to foster his rehabilitation.

The government focused on Loehr's unwillingness to put anything above his own wants and desires. Emphasizing the calculated and deliberate nature of Loehr's crimes against another Airman, the prosecution recommended a dishonorable discharge, between 24 and 30 months confinement, and total forfeiture of pay and allowances.

The military judge, Col. Timothy Wilson, sentenced Loehr to a bad conduct discharge, three years of confine-

ment, and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Because Loehr had been in pretrial confinement since January, he was credited with 159 days toward any approved sentence of confinement.

Prior to trial, in exchange for Loehr pleading guilty, the convening authority agreed not to approve a sentence in excess of 20 months of confinement.

Circuit Trial Counsel in the case was Capt. Steve Kelso and assistant trial counsel was Capt. Tiffany Dawson.

Dawson said, "Loehr's actions strike at the very heart of good order and discipline. He violated the trust of another Airman, his own suitemate, by forging checks and stealing money from his account. His actions showed that he put his own wants above everything and everyone else.

"The court's sentence shows the Air Force has no tolerance for individuals who violate the trust inherent in military service," she concluded.



Photo by Dennis Carlson

377th Medical Support Squadron changes command

Lt. Col. Thomas Hall II took command of the 377th Medical Support Squadron in a change of command ceremony June 27 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center auditorium. Hall's previous assignment was the 22nd Medical Support Squadron commander at McConnell AFB, Kan. Presiding official at the ceremony was Col. Karen M. Mathews, 377th Medical Group deputy commander.

Hundreds of Airmen face retraining into new specialties

Randolph AFB, Texas—More than 450 Airmen have taken their careers in their own hands by volunteering to retrain under the initial phase of the Air Force's Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program—more than 900 may still have to be retrained.

Air Force officials will soon begin notifying those Airmen selected as most vulnerable to retrain, asking them to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to retrain into.

"This phase of the retraining program is necessary to meet the needs of the Air Force by putting Airmen where they are needed most," said Chief Master Sgt. Alvin Diaz, chief of the skills management branch at the Air Force Personnel Center, here.

Under Phase II, the first choice is not guaranteed. Major commands continue to accept volunteer applications and personnel officials encourage all eligible NCOs to also consider special duty assignments that need to be filled such as recruiting jobs, military training instructors, first sergeant duty or professional military education instructor.

"There's still time for those who have been identified for possible retraining to volunteer," said Diaz. "If it were me, I'd think having control over my career would be a priority and help reduce the stress of not knowing whether or not I will get that notification asking me to make a selection—I'd volunteer."

The retraining program is designed to help balance the enlisted force by

moving NCOs in specialties with surpluses to those with shortages.

Things such as retention rates and promotions have an effect on how many Airmen will finally be retrained, said Diaz. "But unless a large number suddenly step up and volunteer, we'll be looking for another 900 or so."

"We will work with those selected for retraining in order to make the transition as smooth as possible while still meeting the needs of the Air Force," said Tech. Sgt. Derek Hughes, noncommissioned officer in charge of Air Force retraining.

Vulnerability listings by grade and Air Force specialty code will be updated weekly at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Retraining/retraining.htm>.

58th Maintenance Squadron holds change of command, July 14, 10 a.m.

Maj. Ray A. Shankles relinquishes command of the 58th Maintenance Squadron in a ceremony July 14, 10 a.m., in Building 336 at 3550 Mather Avenue.

Taking command is Lt. Col. Ann-Marie Parker, currently assigned to Scott AFB, Ill., as the 375th Maintenance commander.

Shankles is reassigned as an assistance chief of depot production for the F-15 at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB, Ga.